

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 05962 191709Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7743
INFO AMCONSUL KARAPQI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5962

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, PBOR, PK, UR
SUBJECT: OVERFLIGHTS OF PAKISTAN

REF: (A) STATE 145251 (B) KARACTI 2898 (NOTAL)
(C) STATE 96851

1. EMBASSY SHARES DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN OVER GOP'S REFUSAL TO APPROVE TIA'S AND OTHER UNSCHEDULED OVERFLIGHTS, BUT THINKS THAT A HIGH LEVEL APPROACH COULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME FOR SEVERAL REASONS.

2. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE SUGGESTION GIVEN IN REFTEL (C), CONCERNING "SCHEDULED" OR "NON-SCHEDULED" WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO CONVINCE THE GPY THAT THE TIA FLIGHTS ARE SCHEDULED, SINCE THEY WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED SCHEDULED IN THE COMMON CIVAIR (AND GOP) UNDERSTANDING OF THAT TERM.

3. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE FACT THAT THE USG DOES NOT REQUIRE PAKISTANI REGISTERED AIRCRAFT TO MAKE TECHNICAL LANDINGS IN THE US WILL BE AN EFFECTIVE ARGUMENT SINCE PAKISTAN'S RELUCTANCE TO GRANT CLEARANCES IS BASED ON IT SPOLITICAL SECURITY SITUATION AND ITS PERCEPTION OF ITS ABILITY TM DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST SUDDEN ATTACK FROM AN IMMEDIATE
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 05962 191709Z

NEIGHBOR WHICH ARE MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE US.

4. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WHILE WE AGREE THAT PERMITTING OVERFLIGHTS BY US "NON-SKEDS" WILL NOT ABROGATE THE GOP'S AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT THE TRANSGP OF MUNITIONS (REFTEL A), WE THINK THAT IN PRACTICE THE EXCEPTION WOULD WEAKEN THE GOP CASE. IF TIA AND OTHER US NON-SKEDS ARE GIVEN OVER-

FLIGHT PRIVILEGES, GOP REFUSAL TO ALLOW SOVIET NON-SKEDS
TO OVERFLY WITHOUT LANDING WOULD LEGITIMATELY BE CONSIDERED
DISCRIMINATORY AND WOULD PROBABLY BE UNTENABLE GIVEN THE
GEO-POLITICAL REALITIES.

5. ON THE BASIS OF THE ARGUMENTS ABOVE WE ARE NOT OPTI-
MISTIC ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF A HIGH LEVEL APPROACH TO THE
GOP. HOWEVER, IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE US TO DO SO,
WE WILL RAISE THE ISSUE WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTRY.

6. FYI. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF UNDETECTED SOVIET OVER-
FLIGHTS OF NORTHERN PAKISTAN AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEPART-
MENT SENDING US ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.
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